

## Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Historic Districts and Preservation of Architectural Heritage after Armed Conflicts

KICK-OFF EVENT

14 – 15 April 2021



*Entrance to the Aleppo Citadel. Image source: Berlin Museum of Islamic Art ©Sultan Kitaz, 2014*

The kick-off webinar is the starting event of a two-year university cooperation project between BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg and the American University of Beirut. This project aims at contributing to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the historic districts of Syria and preservation of its architectural heritage that have been severely damaged and continue to suffer due to the recent crisis. For this purpose and built on the knowledge and experience of the cooperation partners on rehabilitation and reconstruction of war-damaged or neglected and dilapidated old cities in Germany, Lebanon as well as in Syria and other countries in the Middle East, the focus is made on capacity building and promotion of young Syrian academics and professionals in the field.

The project does not intend to merely transfer the essential knowledge, but also to search for integrative and context-based methods for the specific situations in Syrian cities together with the cooperation partners, participants and the stakeholders from Syria. Conceptual approaches for new challenges, such as climate adaptations within the historic cities will also be taken into account. The assessment of specific pre- and post-conflict circumstances of each city that have enjoyed diverse and rich urban heritage for centuries and now are facing overwhelming series of complications, such as heavy destructions, economic decline, social tension and environmental crisis, shall come into play within the process of developing new approaches.

The kick-off event of this project consists of a two-day webinar and discussions for introducing the overall programme, sharing the pertinent experiences and practices by skilled professionals, building a base knowledge on the challenges of dealing with the war-torn Syrian cities and finally the selection of possible case studies for the forthcoming workshops. This event will be followed with block courses, workshops, training colloquia and the exchange of students during the period of 2021 and 2022 which will be announced accordingly.

## TIMETABLE

<b>Wednesday 14 April 2021 09:00 to 13:10 Berlin time (UTC +1) / 10:00 to 14:10 Beirut time (UTC +2)</b>	
09:00 – 09:10 (10m)	Welcome and Opening <i>Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam</i>
09:10 – 09:30 (20m)	Introduction to the Programme <i>Prof. Christoph Wessling</i>
09:30 – 10:00 (30m)	Aleppo Through the Lens of a Local Architect <i>Dima Dayoub</i>
10:00 – 10:20 (20m)	Discussion: What are the urgent challenges for reconstruction of Syrian cities?
10:20 – 11:00 (40m)	Break
11:00 – 11:40 (40m)	Cultural Significance of the Built Heritage <i>Prof. Dr. Alexandra Skedzuhn-Safir</i>
11:40 – 12:00 (20m)	Discussion
12:00 – 12:40 (40m)	Experiences of Post-Conflict Urban Reconstruction from Beirut <i>Prof. Dr. Howayda Al-Harithy / Prof. Dr. Robert Saliba</i>
12:40 – 13:00 (20m)	Discussion
13:00 – 13:10 (10m)	Conclusion of first Day
<b>Thursday 15 April 2021 09:00 to 13:10 Berlin time (UTC +1) / 10:00 to 14:10 Beirut time (UTC +2)</b>	
09:00 – 09:20 (20m)	Introduction to the Toolkit and Map of the Old City of Aleppo <i>Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam / Prof. Christoph Wessling</i>
09:20 – 09:40 (20m)	Discussion: What kind of <i>academic/scientific</i> support is needed in Syria from outside?
09:40 – 10:20 (40m)	Experiences of Post-Conflict Urban Reconstruction from Poland after World War II <i>Prof. em Inken Baller</i>
10:20 – 10:40 (20m)	Discussion
10:40 – 11:10 (30m)	Break
11:10 – 11:50 (40m)	Experiences of Post-Conflict Urban Reconstruction from Germany after World War II <i>Prof. em. Heinz Nagler</i>
11:50 – 12:10 (20m)	Discussion
12:10 – 12:40 (30m)	Discussion: Conclusion and Possible Case Studies from Syria
12:40 – 13:10 (30m)	Meeting of the Coordination Team

## REFERENCES / LINKS

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## PARTICIPANTS

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Prof. Anna Lundqvist  
Chair of Landscape Architecture

Prof. Dr. Alexandra Skedzuhn-Safir  
Chair of Architectural Conservation

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Former Chair of Design and Construction Building in Existing Contexts

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Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam  
Research Associate, Middle East Cooperation Unit at the Chair of Landscape Architecture

BTU Cottbus Master Students

### **American University of Beirut** **Faculty of Engineering and Architecture**

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Head, Department of Architecture and Design

Prof. Dr. Robert Saliba  
Department of Architecture and Design

AUB Students

### **Technische Universität Berlin** **Faculty VI Planning Building Environment**

Prof. Christoph Wessling  
Chair of Urban Planning and Urban Regeneration  
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TU Berlin Students of the Master Program Urban Design and Master Program Urban and Regional Planning

### **Syrian Participants**

16 participants from inside Syria  
34 participants from outside Syria

## CONTACTS

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### Project Name:

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Historic Districts and Preservation of Architectural Heritage after Armed Conflicts

### Project Partners:

BTU Cottbus – Senftenberg and AUB

### In Cooperation with:

TU Berlin, Institute of Urban and Regional Planning

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German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD e.V.)

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